

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday April 8, 2022

## Mayor Spano Presented Yonkers “Women of Distinction Awards for Women’s History Month



L-R: 2022 Women of Distinction Honorees: Daisy Cruz, Detective Autumn Edwards, Romano Terrero, Ursula McIntyre and Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji

In honor of Women’s History Month, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano presented “Women of Distinction” Awards to Yonkers women whose distinct achievements have improved the lives of others in the community and whose impact has changed Yonkers for better.

“Women’s History Month recognizes the historic accomplishments of women, and now it is Yonkers’ turn to pay tribute to the local leaders who either live or work among us each day,” added Mayor Spano.

This year’s honorees range in talent and service. They include:

**Daisy Cruz** - Daisy is a philanthropist and social media personality who has been involved in community work for over 20 years. She focuses on domestic violence (DV) victims by using her own testimony and experience as a DV survivor. She has her own online radio show that attracts over 1,000 people nightly where she covers all topics that people struggle with at some point of their lives. She’s highly involved in community events whether it be distributing food to those less fortunate or covering City of Yonkers events/press releases and translating them in Spanish for the Latino community. Daisy is a board member on Mayor Spano’s Hispanic Advisory Board and has received countless awards and proclamations for her community work.

**Detective Autumn Edwards** – Detective Edwards has been a member of the Yonkers Police Department for over 23 years, and has served as a local ministry leader for 17 years and counting. The latter part of her career has been spent ministering to the mental, emotional, and physical needs of her fellow officers. In 2020, during the height of a very challenging year, her passion and call to law enforcement officers became overwhelming. This led to the birth of The BlueHOPE Project Inc. a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ministering to the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs of law enforcement officers and their families. Its vision is to change the face and shift the culture of Law Enforcement. The BlueHOPE Project Inc. is a team of active and retired law enforcement officers who share a love for God and His people. They are committed to spreading the gospel with their fellow brothers and sisters, actively seeking opportunities to engage with the community they serve by partnering with local faith based and community organizations bringing community and officers together in the City of Yonkers.

**Romano Terrero** - Ramona is the President of Manos Creativas of Yonkers. Ramona currently works as a volunteer with the YMCA, ACDY, DORENEXT, Manos Unidas a la Obras, Greyston Foundation, Orgullo Borinqueño and Environment Earth Club. She is also a Vice President of the Group of Artisans of NYC, Member of 100 Women of Westchester Chapter and GAHLEP. Ramona was on the Board of Steppin’ Up participating in the Chat & Chew and Black and Brown Workshop, and a former Board Member of the Puerto Rican parade of Yonkers. She promotes the Latino culture by presenting expositions on Folklore, Music, Arts and the traditional food of each country. Ramona is Honorary Captain for the YAI 5K fundraising. Ramona has been working with faith-based

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## Yonkers Police Apprehend Wanted Murder Suspect Jerome Wilson in North Carolina



Yonkers murder suspect Jerome Wilson, wanted for the August 2020 Oak Street shooting of Chazz Mitchell, was apprehended on April 4 in North Carolina. Yonkers Police Detectives working together with the FBI’s Westchester Safe Streets Task Force and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) tracked Wilson to a residence in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was placed into custody without incident.

Wilson faces murder charges in the shooting death of Chazz Mitchell that took place on August 25th, 2020, in front of 63 Oak Street. A monetary reward was offered for information leading to his arrest. Wilson remains in custody in North Carolina pending extradition proceedings.

The Yonkers Police Department would like to thank the above agencies and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office for their collaborative efforts in bringing this fugitive to justice.

## Mayor Spano Says Yonkers is Unstoppable in State of the City Address



Mayor Mike Spano in Lincoln HS new auditorium

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Mike Spano delivered his 10th, State of the City address on March 23, proudly proclaiming to the people of New York’s 3rd largest city that Yonkers has survived the COVID pandemic and is moving forward on all parts of the city’s well being and quality of life. Spano’s address looked back on his ten years as Mayor, which coincides with the progress Yonkers has seen during the same period, but also highlighted new initiatives, and looked to a bright future for Westchester’s largest City.

Unstoppable, was the theme of Mayor Spano’s 2022 State of the City address. Spano defined the two year pandemic that gripped Yonkers, New York State and our nation as “A chapter that unifies us rather than divides.”

Spano also pointed to the educational successes that Yonkers has seen under his leadership. “Thanks to the ongoing collaboration with our talented Yonkers Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Quezada, our schools opened their doors for five-days a week instruction this past September. Since then, our District distributed over 75,000 COVID-19 PCR tests, facilitated 27 vaccination sites and conducted weekly surveillance testing in every school. And over the course of the pandemic, Yonkers Schools closed the digital divide that the pandemic only highlighted, by purchasing close to 13,000 Chromebooks, laptops and iPads.

“More impressive is how our students persisted during these very turbulent times. Quarantines, illness, remote learning and masks did not deter them from success. And the numbers prove it. Once again, I am proud to share that our graduation rates continue to rise. Ninety point seven percent of the Class of 2021 graduated – making Yonkers the first and only Big 5 City District in New York to accomplish such an achievement. And 52% of those graduates earned Advanced Designation diplomas. Ladies and gentlemen, in just 10 years, Yonkers Public Schools has increased its graduation rate from 72 to 90% — an increase of 18%,” said Spano, who delivered his address in the auditorium at Lincoln High School, which had just completed a \$3 Million renovation. This decision to deliver the SOC at LHS was a good one, it highlighted the Mayor’s rebuilding of the Yonkers Public schools while at the same time, providing a modern, hi-tech aspect to the speech.

Spano pointed to the rebuild Yonkers schools effort, which is “finally seeing the fruits of our advocacy efforts. I was incredibly proud to recently stand alongside many of you as we broke ground on the new “Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School on McLean Avenue – the first new Yonkers Public School constructed in over 20 years.”

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## YPIE Students Win Prestigious Science Research Awards at Regeneron Event



YPIE Students Yoselin, Malak, Autumn, Tanya, Jaden, and Zowie (not pictured) win awards at Regeneron WESEF.

For the first time, six Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) students from across the Yonkers Public Schools, were recognized with awards at Regeneron WESEF, one of the most competitive and prestigious science and engineering fairs in the country.

WESEF, the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair, offers high school students from Westchester and Putnam counties an opportunity to present their research to scientists, business leaders, and the general public.

On March 19th, 11 YPIE Regeneron Science Research Scholars from four different high schools represented Yonkers at WESEF. They presented their original research projects along with nearly 700 of Westchester’s best and brightest young scientists.

These students’ research covered a range of topics including:

- A Novel Natural Language Processing Approach for Analyzing Lengthy Terms and Condition Agreements
  - Birth Worker Bias in Emergency Decision Making
  - Feeding a Community through Hydroponics on the Science Barge
- YPIE students were honored to receive the following awards:

- Jaden: 2nd Place Award for Computer Science
- Yoselin: Honorable Mention Award for Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Malak and Zowie: Leason Ellis Team Project Award
- Jaden and Tanya & Autumn (team project): Creative Approach to Research

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## The Easter Bunny is Back in Westchester!



The Easter Bunny is returning to Westchester, with visits at the Cross County Center and Ridge Hill.

The Easter Bunny is returning to the iconic outdoor shopping destination this Spring for photos with families, creating memorable moments that last a lifetime! Photo ops with the Easter Bunny begins on Friday, March 25 and continues through Saturday, April 16. Visitors are encouraged to dress in their Sunday best for photos with the lovable bunny!

“We are thrilled that the Easter Bunny is returning this Spring after a two-year hiatus,” said Liz Pollack, Senior Marketing Manager at Cross County Center. “It is the perfect opportunity to bring some joy and happiness to our shoppers with bright colors and springtime décor, while keeping family traditions alive.”

The Easter Bunny will be located in the former Sprint store, between Ulta Beauty and Champs. Reservations are recommended and NY state mask mandates regarding COVID will be followed. Each child who visits the Bunny will receive a free gift.

Hours are as follows: Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information and reservations, please visit [www.crosscountycenter.com](http://www.crosscountycenter.com).

Ridge Hill also has the Easter Bunny arriving on Saturday, April 2 – Saturday, April 16 at 208 Market Street (across from Old Navy). Reservations are recommended, but not required.

Visit <https://amusemattebookbunny.com/ridge-hill/> to make a reservation and for more information.

## Flip Circus Premieres in Yonkers at Cross Count Center



For the first time in its fifty-year history, Flip Circus is coming to Yonkers, NY, and Cross County Center, bringing the great American circus tradition!

“This is such an incredible opportunity to host an amazing family experience for Cross County Center shoppers and guests,” said Liz Pollack, Senior Marketing Manager at Cross County Center. “The circus show will be entertaining for guests of all ages.”

Flip Circus takes place in a traditional red and white big top tent and features traditional circus acts including clowns, acrobats, jugglers, aerial acts, dancers, daredevil motorcycles, audience participation and more. Circular stadium seating ensures no guest is more than 50 feet from center stage.

Circus shows will run at Cross County Center daily from April 15th to May 2nd, in the north parking lot, across from Olive Garden and Longhorn Steakhouse. Monday – Friday shows take place at 7:30pm and on Saturday and Sunday at 11am, 2pm and 5pm. Parking is FREE.

Flip Circus has been created by the imagination of the Vazquez family, who has provided quality circus acts for over 50 years and four family generations, across North and South America.

Tickets are now on sale at [www.crosscountycenter.com](http://www.crosscountycenter.com).

## The Bronxville Pops Concert Band 2022 Concert Series

The Bronxville Pops Concert Band will be presenting their annual live 2022 concert series on Wednesday’s in July. The Band has been presenting FREE concerts for 48 years. Support over the years has been from business and individuals from Bronxville and surrounding communities.

The concerts, featuring music from the great American Songbook, will be performed on the Great Lawn in front of The Bronxville High School on Wednesday July 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 8PM

Donations may be mailed to Box 284, Bronxville NY 10708.

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**West. Resident Says, "I'm Not Paying My Fed. Income Tax," Wants His Day in Court With IRS**



**Tony Futia**

**By Dan Murphy**

The Internal Revenue Service, IRS, has consistently been held by Americans as the least popular government agency. Mark Twain said it best when he quipped, "What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin."

As April 15th approaches and all of us are preparing to file our federal income taxes, we sat down with longtime Westchester resident Tony Futia. Futia, 86, is a longtime resident of North White Plains, in the Town of North Castle. He served our country in the Navy and worked for 45 years in the Town of North Castle and served on the Valhalla School Board.

But Tony Futia will not be filing his federal income tax return on April 15, or anytime this year. In fact, he has not filed a federal return since 2014, and has undertaken the ultimate protest against the IRS by refusing to pay his Federal Income Tax based on his belief, and the belief of his organization called, We The People, that there is no law that requires US citizens in the 50 states to pay their Federal Income Tax.

"There is no statute or federal law the requires Americans to pay federal income taxes. When you file, or sign a W-4, you do so voluntarily. Only Federal employees must file and pay federal income taxes. For the rest of us, there is no law that requires us to do so," said Futia, who waited until his wife Martye passed away in 2013 before taking on the IRS.

Futia transferred most of his assets to his children and stopped filing a 1040 in seven years. The IRS sends me notices of taxes past due, now at \$80,000 and counting, but has taken no other action. Futia's primary source of income is his pension from North Castle, which the IRS cannot garnish.

Futia, and We The People want their day in court to argue that the 16th Amendment to the US Constitution, ratified in 1913, does not require every American to pay a federal income tax. The amendment establishes "Congress's right to impose a Federal Income Tax." Prior to 1913, there was no Federal Income Tax in the US.

The 16th Amendment does not say, impose a Federal Income Tax on every American citizen. It is this ambiguity, and the fact that Congress had never passed a law requiring everyone to pay a federal income tax, that Futia and We the People, have been asking the IRS, and the courts to answer for more than 20 years.

Futia wants that day in court against the IRS to make this argument. But he has to wait for the IRS, or the US Department of Justice, to bring a criminal action against him for tax evasion. "If I bring an action against the IRS for what I believe are their unlawful actions, I will lose, because the Federal courts always side with the IRS and cite prior case law. But if the IRS comes after me, I have the right to request a Jury Trial, and we can get this out in the open. I have a first amendment right to be heard," said Futia.

When most of us file our federal taxes, the IRS reviews what you have agreed to pay, and audits you if their figure don't agree with your figures. Most of the challenges from the IRS come in the form of underpayment from those who filed a return.

But for those who like Futia, have not filed any return, the IRS really isn't sure how to proceed. "There are many of us who do not file a return every year, but I'm doing this on principle. The IRS doesn't want people to know about this, and I challenge the people of Westchester to imagine if you find out that you have been paying your federal income taxes for all of these years and you didn't have to?"

"Show me the law that requires me to file a tax return and I will do it. I will give anyone \$10,000 if they can show me a law that requires me to pay my Federal Income Taxes," said Futia, who knows that he could go to jail if he is convicted, but still refuses to pay. I'm willing to take that risk for my children and grandchildren.

And if Futia is somehow 'made famous' by what he is doing, it may result in more attention given to him by the IRS. Famous Americans who get in trouble with the IRS are prominently audited and prosecuted. Just ask Martha Stewart, Willie Nelson and now Hunter Biden.

Several IRS agents have also joined the We The People movement and agree with Futia that the Federal Income tax is not mandatory for most Americans. Joe Banister, was an IRS investigator who resigned, wrote a book, Investigating the

*continued on pg 4-*

**My State of the City of Yonkers**



**By Eric W. Schoen**

A friend came to visit me last week. As a way to pick up a few extra bucks, he does Uber Eats, the food delivery service so popular in our area. He was driving in Yonkers doing his deliveries and we got together for coffee. 'Eric, do they ever pave the streets in Yonkers? I live in Middletown, New York, and I have never seen streets in such bad shape as in Yonkers. Your streets are killing the bottom of my car!'

I could not disagree. With cold patch in the winter and hot patch when the weather gets warm, our Public Works crews 'patch' the streets of our fair city during a good part of the year. But yes, I said to my friend the bottom of my car like the bottom of many of your cars takes a beating in Yonkers. And let's not forget the flat tires caused by potholes that dot the Yonkers landscape.

As I was listening and reading about all the wonderful accomplishments of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano's administration in his State of the City address presented in the recently (long overdue) renovated Lincoln High School auditorium, all I could think about was the many streets in Yonkers that are in desperate need of repaving. Repaving Yonkers streets has always been a political thing, with Councilpersons and Mayors trading off street repaving for Budget and Capital Improvement Program votes. This caused many streets in bad shape being 'missed' because residents in the affected areas lacked clout or their elected officials having 'other priority streets' to reward supporters and districts where the elected official came away victorious.

I'd like to share with you some things crucial to Yonkers which the Mayor with so many true accomplishments didn't have time to mention. Double Parked Cars. Cars parked illegally in handicapped parking spaces. Cars parked illegally in spots not meant for car parking. Cars illegally parked with City of Yonkers related placards that are not ticketed when their meter runs out. Placarded cars that are given a 'free ride' because someone somewhere has directed enforcement agents not to touch them. City of Yonkers government vehicles driven by higher ups parked illegally or double parked and not ticketed.

Have you ever driven the stretch of Yonkers Avenue from Central Avenue to the topless bar and viewed how many cars are double and triple parked blocking vehicles from transversing the road? It's often impossible for legally parked cars to get out of their spaces without honking and searching for the drivers of the illegally parked cars.

This is unfair to those who abide by the laws and park legally or put money in the meters. Which is most of us. Next time you get hit with a ticket, look for cars around you that have meters that have run out or placards in the window and are not ticketed. Bring it or send it to the hearing to show the 'selective enforcement' that exists. Mayor Spano early on said he was going to do away with this 'special treatment,' but I notice and you good readers have told me it exists more now than ever!

You have seen them all over town. Signs that list the posted speed and the actual speed you are driving at. I read a posting on Facebook from a gentleman in the Park Hill section of town taking credit for getting these speed signs in his neighborhood. This my friends is 1980's technology. Yonkers and New York State, particularly in this post pandemic (we pray) world need to get serious just like New York City has done around schools with speed camera programs. Give our police officers speed guns where they can target and ticket those going over the speed limit.

Put up speed cameras and see how quickly the word gets around. Generating needed revenue for Yonkers!

Red Light Cameras. How can I mention cameras without mentioning them. If Yonkers is going to continue a 'State Approved' (though our State officials clearly note they are doing it only because Yonkers officials want it) Red Light Camera program, the traffic lights at Red Light Camera locations have to be calibrated in line with the law. Not happening in Yonkers. Get a Red Light ticket, ask the Hearing Officer to see records as to when the street light was calibrated. Can't be produced? Ask what you are being charged for and tell the official the cameras green to yellow to red timing is out of sequence. Refuse to pay the ticket. Be aggressive and don't let Yonkers rip you off of \$65!

The Yonkers Parking Authority like most cities in Westchester needs to put little stickers on meters telling parkers the days and hours meters are in effect and what days the meters are not in effect. And properly placed street signs with the same information. All I hear are complaints from our elderly residents who have drama using the electronic parking machines in and around the downtown area particularly around the library. New York City has a program that works and doesn't require the input of a license plate number. If Yonkers feels people with extra time on their tickets and no license numbers are going to share the extra time with other parkers,

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# City Considers Ceding JFK Marina Parkland to Private Control; Is That Legal?

*OP-ED submitted by Yonkers on Hudson Alliance*

The Yonkers on Hudson Alliance (YOHA), a coalition of community groups, is questioning the legality of an action by the city of Yonkers that authorizes the developer of the Glenwood Power Plant to control and reap profit from land in JFK Marina, the last public park in Yonkers that affords public access to greenspace on the Hudson River shoreline.

The city's action would privatize the south lawn of the Marina, an open area cherished by park visitors who come for recreation and respite along the riverbank, where they can enjoy sweeping views of the Palisades.

At its February 15 2022 meeting, the Yonkers Planning Board gave a green-light to the Goren Group to advance to the next stage, granting the developer a ground lease to build on and earn profit from private events held on the highly valued south lawn of JFK Marina—referred to in official documents as Parcel 1C. By ceding this essential public space to private control, the city has overstepped its authority, YOHA claims.

As outlined in a letter from the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic on behalf of YOHA and Riverkeeper, which has been protecting public space on the Hudson for 56 years, YOHA contends that the city is neglecting the Public Trust Doctrine, a principle long upheld by New York courts that precludes the use of dedicated parkland for non-park uses.

YOHA's advisors have also confirmed that a little known, legally-binding document called a Letters Patent mandates that JFK Marina be preserved as a public park forever.

"It comes down to a question of social justice," says Barbara Smith, president of the Hudson River Community Association, a founding member of YOHA representing the neighborhood immediately surrounding the Plant and the Marina. "The city needs to stop privileging private developers and start elevating the health and wellbeing of the people of Yonkers."

## THE LETTERS PATENT

To date, the city and developer have relied upon a process known as parkland alienation as its route to hand over control of public land to the Goren Group. Alienation provides cover for claims that the city is flagrantly violating the Public Trust Doctrine.

But YOHA argues that the Letters Patent, a land deed issued by New York State in 1964, dictated the terms under which Yonkers was permitted to create and operate the Marina. The document stipulates that no one may ever be allowed to make a profit on Marina parkland. The city therefore lacks authority to allow Marina land to be used for profit, as the Goren Group intends.

A July 16, 2021 letter from the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic to Mayor Spano informed the city of its duty to uphold the mandate of the Letters Patent. If the Marina, or part of it, stops being used as a public recreational space, the letter stated, "the land immediately reverts to The People of New York State, not the entity planning to develop the land." Plainly stated, the 2013 alienation of the south lawn is invalid and any further alienation or leasing of Marina property is against the law, too.

"It's the law, plain and simple," says Dominique Surh, co-founder of the Friends of Trevor Park, who discovered the Letters Patent while researching the origins of the park. "The Letters Patent states that no one—not even the city of Yonkers—is allowed to give control of the Marina to a private company. The park is meant to stay public, forever."

"The city doesn't have the authority to do what they've done by putting through the alienation and giving the developer a lease on Parcel 1C," emphasizes Stephen Wagner, of Yonkers Committee for Smart Development. "The alienation must be declared invalid and the proposed ground lease needs to be voided."

To date, the city has offered no response to refute the primacy of the binding document brought to their attention by YOHA and Riverkeeper in the Pace letter.

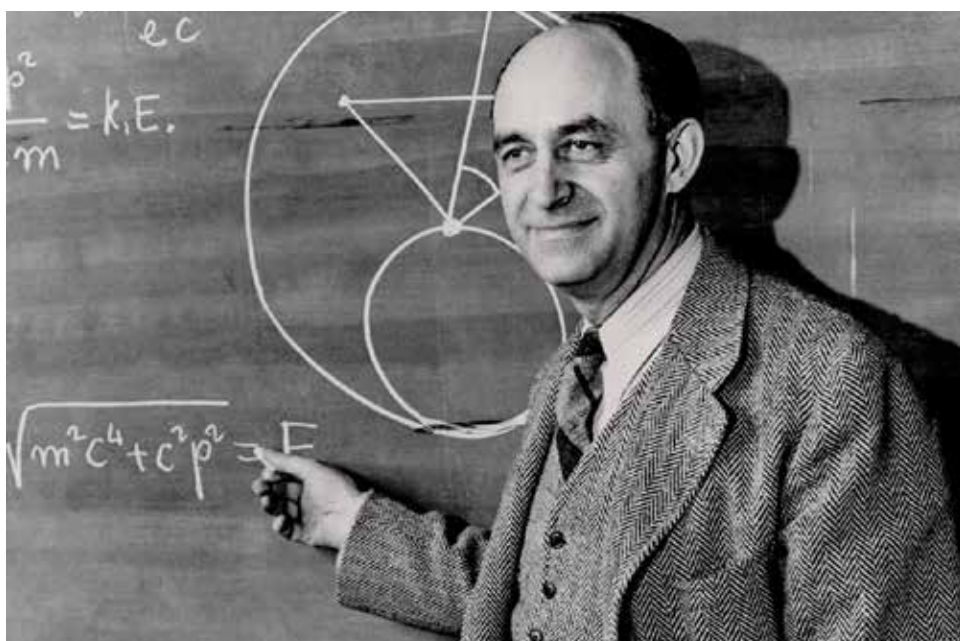
## FINDING SOLUTIONS

While supporting rehabilitation and reuse of the Glenwood PowerPlant, YOHA's focus since its inception has been to protect essential Yonkers public space, especially parkland that affords direct access to the Hudson. The group, a coalition of four anchor community groups supported by a dozen affiliate organizations, played a galvanizing role in preventing the Goren Group from erecting a parking garage for the Plant in the middle of Trevor Park. When public outcry scuttled that effort, the developer proposed putting their garage in the center of JFK Marina.

YOHA led the effort against that project, too, and were ultimately victorious in having the planned garage relocated to another site. "The Hudson River and the Palisades make Yonkers special," says Elliot Scott of the River Communities Coalition of Yonkers, one of YOHA's founding groups. "But our elected representatives keep cutting off our access to the waterfront. They seem dead set on turning Yonkers into a cookie cutter city, where only rich people get to enjoy the city's beauty. Our city government should be doing everything in its power to protect and provide even more public access to our amazing riverfront." Of course riverfront property is coveted by developers, as well, and the city has a long history of offering sweetheart deals that smooth the way for construction

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# Enrico Fermi Educational Fund 59th Annual Scholarship Breakfast



The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers will hold its 59th Annual Scholarship Breakfast on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at Mulino's at Lake Isle in Eastchester. The event begins promptly at 9:45am.

We are proud to announce that we will be honoring the Honorable Peter P. Rosato, Esq. and The Yonkers Federation of Teachers who have graced us with their support and presence over many decades. Scholarship recipients and attendees will enjoy breakfast and brief remarks from distinguished officials.

The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers, NY is a non-profit organization that was founded nearly 60 years ago. It began as a vision of several individuals, led by Michael Vitulli, to generate financial support for Italian-American students who reside in Yonkers to further their education. Today, we are pleased to offer financial support to several students throughout Westchester County. Each year \$40,000 in scholarships are given to students who demonstrate outstanding commitment to academics and their communities. To date, the organization has provided over 400 scholarships totaling over one million dollars.

Tickets are \$45 each. Seats must be reserved by April 22th. To purchase tickets, please contact Mr. Anthony Maddalena at (914) 968-5644.

For more information, visit our website [www.enricofermi.org](http://www.enricofermi.org).

## IRS fight, continued from pg 3-

Federal Income Tax, and was successful in court against the IRS.

Other IRS agents have also resigned from their jobs, refused to file in protest, and lost in court and spent time in prison, which underscores the danger of fighting the IRS. This is why most people, corporations, and the media don't want to report on or support what Futia and We the People want a discussion on. The 'Don't mess with the IRS' slogan has been followed by millions of Americans for more than 100 years.

One logical question to Futia and We the People's argument is how would we fund our government without an income tax paid by all? Their answer is—most education costs are paid for by property taxes. Our roads and bridges are paid for by gas taxes, and most of the federal government is not funded by our income tax. In fact, we are borrowing \$1 Trillion a year to operate the federal government, so many of the programs that you may enjoy are being paid for by future generations through the Federal debt, now at \$30 Trillion, that they will have to pay.

"The federal income tax revenues collected only pay for Federal employee benefits and pensions and for payments on the federal debt," said Futia. The other legal argument that Futia and We the People want to make is that the costs to operate the federal government should not be paid through a federal income tax but by equally apportioning the costs to the states, with the hope that wasteful federal government spending could be found, reduced and halted.

"There is no law that says that the average American citizen has to pay an income tax. Most people don't want to hear about this. They want to go about their lives and pay their taxes and be left alone. But I think there are many of us out there who wonder, where are my tax dollars going and how much of it is wasteful spending."

Twenty years ago, We the People had thousands of members. They were placing full page ads in the NY Times and USA today, and were having events at the national press club, televised on C-Span. Then several roadblocks were placed in their way by the IRS, according to Bob Schultz, found of We the People Foundation. "By the end of 2002 we had collected thousands of signatures and had four petitions before the court. The people were entitled to answers to our legitimate questions. We never got answers and in 2003 the IRS summoned our organizations records and my records," said Schultz, who went on a hunger strike to try and highlight this cause.

Over the next 15 years, the roadblocks by the IRS appeared to work. There has been little written about the constitutionality of the Federal Income Tax, and We the People slowed to a halt But now Futia and We the People are making a comeback is underway and events will be scheduled. With both Futia and Schultz in their 80's the time is now for a confrontation with Uncle Sam and the IRS. and believes that he has a right to be heard in court based on the last ten words of the First Amendment which give every citizen the right to be heard "and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. "We have that right, and I challenge the people of Westchester, and our elected officials to learn more about this and educate yourselves." Futia and We the People will be taking an advertisement out next week in our papers and online at YonkersTimes.com with more details on the \$10,000 reward. There are many more details regarding Futia and We the People's arguments, which can be found at We The People of New York, Inc. 2458 Ridge Rd., Queensberry, NY 12804. (518)656-3578 [www.givemeliberty.org](http://www.givemeliberty.org)

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Majority Leader Diaz, Councilwoman Pineda-Isaac Attend Westchester Dept. of Corrections Event



Elder Wilhelmina Coleman, holding flowers, was honored for her service

On March 30, 2022 the Westchester County Department of Correction hosted an event that was designed to provide support and inspiration for twenty-five female residents in their care. Keynote speakers, Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz and Council Member Corazon Pineda-Isaac made onsite presentations that centered on empowerment, perseverance and community service.

In the spirit of empowerment and perseverance, the Correction Department and City Council members formally recognized and honored an amazing woman, Elder Wilhelmina Coleman.

Coleman has been providing Protestant services at WDOC for over 33 years. At 93, she has dedicated her life to helping others in her community and at many area facilities. During her discussion with the residents Coleman said: "I'm delighted to be back here in person with members from my outreach ministry to provide spiritual support and guidance. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the programs and services at WDOC and in your communities upon return home. I'm also overwhelmed by today's unexpected special recognition and want to thank County Executive Latimer, Commissioner Spano and Majority Leader Diaz."

Diaz shared her life story in an effort to demonstrate the valuable life skills learned in reference to problem solving, managing obstacles and becoming a leader in her community. Diaz encouraged the women to commit to turning their lives around by taking advantages of the resources available at WDOC and in the community.

Diaz said: "As a public servant elected to a position, I feel it's my civic duty to empower as many individuals as I can to ensure there is hope. Change is coming, the road ahead may look far, but continue on the path and you shall be successful."

Spano addressed the group saying: "It's especially gratifying to formally recognize Elder Coleman during Women's History Month because she has been a trailblazer in her community and beyond for over 50 years, selflessly devoting her life to supporting those in need, including incarcerated individuals. Similarly, we are grateful to have Majority Leader Diaz and her colleagues from the Yonkers City Council volunteer to spend time with our female residents, offering support and encouragement that is sure to impact them during and after their periods of incarceration."

The event provided the WDOC female residents with an opportunity to listen to inspirational life stories, ask questions and explore how the Yonkers City Council members could be a resource for them once they transition back to their communities

**VIRTUAL DISCUSSION FOR MEN LIVING WITH LOSS**

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: It's Okay to Grieve, Let's Talk: An Open Discussion for Men Living With Loss. It will held via ZOOM video conference on Tues., April 12, from 7 - 8 pm NY time.

Open to men nationwide who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer, regardless of how much time has gone by. To learn more or to register, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290 by 5 pm (NY time) on Monday, April 11.

It is never possible to prepare yourself for the loss of a spouse or partner. Learning how to cope with the grief and the impact on your life is hard to do alone. Speaking with others who've also been through it is an excellent way to learn and feel less alone.

A facilitator who has also lost his spouse to breast cancer will lead the discussion, including following topics: There is no one way to grieve - no right way, and no wrong way; Understanding the challenges and uncertainties that accompany loss; Dealing with unexpected "trigger points" and reminders; Coping with loneliness, holidays; Giving yourself permission to move forward.

The open discussion format provides a safe and supportive venue to talk with others coping with similar challenges. Share concerns, experiences and information with others who've been there too. To learn more, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org) or call 914- 962-6402.

**On This Day in Yonkers History...**



actress Ruth Draper, left, appeared at one of the many classic theaters in Yonkers in the 1930's

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, April 11th

April 11, 1925: Residents of Northwest Yonkers, characterizing the city dump near Morsemer Avenue as "the vilest public nuisance within the city limits," presented a petition to Mayor Wiesendanger, Health Commissioner Buckmaster and the Board of Aldermen, demanding DPW stop dumping trash at the site.

April 11, 1931: Two Yonkers girls helped police smash a counterfeit ring distributing fake \$10 and \$20 bills throughout the Portuguese section of Yonkers.

Tuesday, April 12th

April 12, 1920: Patrolman J. T. Madden arrested Stage Star Vera Van Atta Henshaw on Central Avenue for speeding. She had gotten married in Yonkers just a month earlier!

April 12, 1940: Greystone, home of the late Samuel Untermyer, was opened to auction some of the furnishings and art treasures of the estate.

Wednesday, April 13th

April 13, 1931: Department of Justice agents raided a Warburton Avenue garage, arrested two men, seized six large trucks, 240 barrels of alleged beer and 150 empty barrels. The total of property they seized were estimated to be \$34,000.

April 13, 1941: Police and Fire department Chiefs William Kruppenbacher and Daniel Carnegie admitted they were concerned about an acute shortage of men as they prepared for Yonkers role in national defense. Every department head said he was "gravely concerned about what might happen in an emergency" because of the shortage.

Thursday, April 14th

April 14, 1904: Joseph Sweeney and William Brown received 50,000 trout from the Forest, Fish and Game Commissioners; they dispersed them in the Nepperhan River and the Grassy Sprain, Sprain, Tibbetts, Sunny and Troublesome Brooks.

April 14, 1941: Publisher Alfred Knopf released a book by Yonkers native Francis Hyde Bangs about his father, humorist John Kendrick Bangs. Titled John Kendrick Bangs, Humorist of the Nineties, the book's most interesting chapter was "Three Weeks In Politics," the story of the 1894 race for Mayor of Yonkers. Democrat Bangs ran against Republican Captain John Peene, owner of the Ben Franklin line of river steamers, losing by 207 votes. At the time, many felt Bangs easily could have won, but he refused to open up his North Broadway home for a local German band and a large number of "ward heelers," instead saying he wouldn't disturb his two-year-old son.

Friday April 15th

April 15, 1911: The Yonkers Herald sponsored a debate on New York City potentially annexing Yonkers. More than 2,000 people attended the program in the Armory. Samuel Untermyer and Arthur J. Burns spoke in favor of it; Burns pointed out the immense opportunities and improvements, such as jobs such as in NYPD, NYFD or NYDPW if Yonkers joined NYC. This was the first time Untermyer, owner of the Greystone estate since 1899, addressed a Yonkers audience; he added it came down to a choice of tranquility or progress. If Yonkers became part of NYC, millions of dollars would be available for building and improvements. Arthur Birkins and James Hunt spoke in favor of Yonkers' independence. Birkins opined smaller local government created more intimate, efficient and effective government; Hunt pointed out for more than twenty years

*continued on pg 7-*

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***Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-***

get over it! And Merchants, keep pressure on City Hall and the Parking Authority to keep the free 10 minute parking buttons, just enough time to run and and pick up something quick.

On to our schools. Though some would call into question the results of assessments giving during the Covid crisis, our schools are accomplishing achievements greater than the rest of Big 5 cities in New York State and frankly better than the state as a whole. Kudos to Superintendent Quezada and Administrators, Teachers and Civil Service Staff who are working under difficult, challenging situations. Mayor Spano’s recent appointments to the School Board have a deep understanding of the needs of our students.

As our student population is largely on the west side of town, I am glad to see new Schools like the Sotomayor School breaking ground. This and the addition of other schools in West Yonkers is going to have to lead a most difficult discussion to the return of neighborhood schools that use to exist in our city. Bussing is taking up too much time for our students and their families and hampers traffic morning and afternoon throughout much of Yonkers. And it is costly. Before the student population shifted east we had many schools on the west side of town that were decommissioned and put to other uses. Now that we have schools opening on the west side of town there will hopefully not be a need for all the bussing that occurs. Desegregation is not the problem that it was when the issue was taken to court.

Yes, when I graduated Yonkers High School in 1978 the schools on the east side of town had many more resources than those on the west side of town. Buildings on the west side of town were in worse shape than the new schools in the east part of town. Slowly that is turning around after oh so many years. This discussion will be a tough one for Yonkers until we can be sure every students across our city gets the same quality education. But it’s a conversation that has to take place.

Students who attend school in Yonkers must reside in our city. It is illegal for students to attend the Yonkers Public Schools if they don’t live in Yonkers. I see way to many students being dropped off and picked up in cars, some. with New Jersey license plates. If a child lives in Yonkers his or her parent or guardian should have no fear of supplying the district with current documentation. This has been done in neighboring communities and by the time it is the turn for the parents to bring in documentation, when they don’t live in the city the students ‘magically’ disappear and return to their home districts. Why? Because an aggressive Board of Education and City can go after them for the cost of tuition in the district for the child. Remember. Kids in the district illegally are taking away resources from children who live in Yonkers.

So, some issues that I feel are important for Yonkers, a city on the move. I’ll have more thoughts in future articles like what has to be done in Getty Square, not the most glorious place to travel through to get to all of our great waterfront has to offer. Good luck Mayor Mike Spano in continuing work to once again make Yonkers, ‘The City of Gracious Living!’ We are here to support you!

***Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday’s from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.***

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY on April 29, 2022 at 2:30PM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019

**AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN THE CEREMONIAL COURTROOM, YONKERS CITY HALL, 4TH FLOOR.**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES [WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV](http://WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV) .**

**CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY THE PUBLIC. OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS**

**# 5727A – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia of Ginsburg Development, on behalf of Pier LLC 70, owner, on premises known as 70 Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4, Zone: M (B24085)**

**# 5769 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of Ghassem Khorasani, owner, on premises known as 527 aka 531 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Block: 39, Lot: 59.60, Zone: A (B22793)**

**NEW HEARINGS**

**# 5778 – Intensification of a Non-Conforming Use – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of Ryan McCormack, owner, on premises known as 110 Sherwood Avenue, Block: 6360, Lot: 7.9, Zone: S-50 (B29540)**

**# 5779 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of McIntrye St Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 850 Tuckahoe Road, Block: 5673, Lot: 76, Zone: MG (B29075)**

**# 5780 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of John Pilenza, owner, on premises known as 23 Ardell Road, Block: 5277, Lot: 8, Zone: S-75 (B28147)**

**# 5781 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of 12 Seymour LLC, owner, on premises known as 12 Seymour Street, Block: 2062, Lot: 6, Zone: M (B28990)**

**# 5782 – Use Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park, owner, on premises known as 287 Central Park Avenue, Block: 6030, Lot: 77, Zone: S-50 (B29072)**

**# 5783 – Non-Conforming Use – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of 155 Warburton Ave Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 155 Warburton Avenue, Block: 2099, Lot: 13, Zone: CM (B24278)**

**JOSEPH CIANCIULLI, CHAIRMAN, ZBA**

**FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>**

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR FOR ELECTRICAL ON-CALL SERVICES AT PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms for Electrical On-Call Services at various MHACY sites as specified in this Invitation for Bids (“IFB”).

This IFB package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This IFB is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders”) and is available online starting April 8, 2022, at [www.mhacy.org/about/procurement](http://www.mhacy.org/about/procurement).

There will be a site tour for interested parties on April 21, 2022, time to be determined. The IFB questions deadline is April 25, 2022, at 12:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

The contract is a non-exclusive contract for the services described. Selection may be made of one (1) or more Respondents deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposal.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on May 5, 2022. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the IFB. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY’s best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this IFB or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this IFB, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY’s Board of Commissioners, or MHACY’s officers and/ or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers 1511 Central Park Avenue Yonkers, New York 10710  
IFB # 2022 – 02A

**CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Notice of Complete Application**

**Applicant: CITY OF YONKERS CITY HALL 40 S BROADWAY YONKERS, NY 10701**

**Facility: REDMOND PARK CITY OF YONKERS COOK AVE YONKERS, NY 10701**

**Application ID: 3-5518-00918/00003**

**Permits(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 15 Title 5 Stream Disturbance**

**Project is located: in YONKERS in WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

**Project Description: The project sponsor proposes to disturb 125 linear feet of the bed and banks of Tibbets Brook [Water Index No. ER-1-5, Class B] for the purpose of replacing a 60” culvert pipe with a 54” pipe. The bottom half of the 60” culvert will remain to reduce disturbance of the stream bed.**

**Availability of Application Documents: Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.**

**State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination: Project is not subject to SEQR because it is a Type II action.**

**SEQR Lead Agency: None Designated**

**State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination: The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The application type is exempt and/or the project involves the continuation of an existing operational activity.**

**DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29:) It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.**

**Availability For Public Comment: Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person 15 days after the publication date of this notice.**

**Contact Person: Michael V. Grosso, NYSDEC, 21 S. Putts Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561  
Date: April 5, 2022**

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**Women of Distinction, continued from pg. 1-**

organizations in assisting the people of Yonkers. In 1996, Ramona organized an American Citizenship workshop with Mount Carmel Catholic Church and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

Ursula McIntyre - Ursula is highly regarded for her significant philanthropic contributions to her community and beyond. Locally, Ursula is well-known for her involvement throughout numerous organizations in Yonkers, including her work with the Yonkers Police Athletic League, the Aisling Irish Community Center, and the Annual Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade. This year Ursula was selected to Chair the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee in honor of all that she has done from the Irish-American community. Ursula is also a staunch advocate for Cancer research and treatment accessibility.

Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji – Nnenna serves on the Mayor's Disability Advisory Board (MDAB) for the City of Yonkers. Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji raises awareness of the needs of the citizens with disabilities. As a person with a hearing disability, Nnenna overcame many obstacles in her life believing she can achieve her goals despite being deaf. As a single parent raising two boys (one with Autism and one with ADHD), her passion for helping special needs children led her to co-found the Yonkers Special Education PTA (SEPTA) to support parents of special needs students. Her advocacy work for children with special needs extends outside Yonkers, where she is currently the Westchester East Putnam Region Special education PTA Chair.

"These women have demonstrated excellence, leadership and integrity within their community, serving as role models for other successful women," stated Mayor Spano. "We are inspired by these women and strive to make a true difference amongst our neighbors."

Mayor Spano presented the "Women of Distinction" Awards at a ceremony held at Yonkers City Hall on March 25th.

**YPIE, continued from pg. 1-**

Award

Jake Schofield, YPIE Regeneron Science Research Director, was also recognized with the Best WESEF Forms and Paperwork Award, for ensuring students submitted accurate paperwork that made the review process easier.

Through a long-time partnership with Regeneron, YPIE's rigorous Science Research Institute enables more than 50 Yonkers students in 10th through 12th grades to conduct their own in-depth research and present their findings at local and national conferences.

The YPIE community looks forward to watching as these young scientists continue to make a positive impact on our world. Learn more [ypie.org/science-research](http://ypie.org/science-research).

**Yonkers History, continued from pg. 5-**

after the Bronx was annexed, Kingsbridge and West Farms had no public works projects. He added Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island pushed through its own bonding for necessary improvements because New York would not help build what was needed.

They set up a special area of seats for the "accommodation of ladies and their escorts" in the middle of the Armory floor. The Herald reported most attendees went with "open minds," evidenced by spontaneous applause after each presentation.

April 15, 1955: Ruth Redmond, mother of Chinese prisoner Hugh Redmond and members from Yonkers Committee to Free Hugh Francis Redmond, including Supervisor Thomas McSpedon, left for Washington. They met with state department officials and AFL President George Meany, and discussed getting her son released from a Communist China jail. They took a bound volume inscribed to President Dwight Eisenhower; the book had petitions from more than 500,000 people, resolutions from more than 500 organizations and thousands of letters from school children. . A decorated World War II veteran, Redmond was arrested as a CIA spy while working in China.

Saturday, April 16th

April 16, 1935: Character actress Ruth Draper made her first appearance in Yonkers at the Waverly Terrace Auditorium, South Waverly and Herriot Streets.

Considered the world master of the difficult art of monologue, she had built up a "large and admiring public throughout the country" and beyond. Draper performed not only in all sections of our country, but also in Great Britain, Europe and South Africa.

April 16, 1942: During outdoor ceremonies welcoming Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell on an inspection tour of Otis Elevator Company, Purchasing Agent Patrick O'Hara led assembled workers in the Star Spangled Banner; when they reached the words, "our Flag was still there," a large American flag was unfurled from the overhead bridge connecting two Otis buildings. O'Hara announced Otis was the first factory in the area to be honored with the General's visit. O'Hara then spelled the word PATRIOTISM; as he did so, female workers, wearing blue slacks, held a large card for each letter he spelled. Each letter was red... except for the letters OTIS in blue! O'Hara went on to tell General Somervell it was the only type of "ism" Otis allowed.

Sunday, April 17th

April 17, 1861: One hundred Yonkers men met at Farrington Hall to enlist in defense of the Union.

April 17, 1951: Stockholders of Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company officially changed the company name to Alexander Smith, Inc.

April 17, 1955: After people read The Herald Statesman the names of the hundreds of Yonkers children who received Salk polio vaccines in schools, additional parental requests once again began pouring in to our public and parochial schools for the shots.

**Questions or comments? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com).**

**For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).**

**YOHA Op-Ed, continued from pg. 4-**

of high-end housing that most residents cannot afford, and that continue to shrink public access to the river. And the Goren Group has been receiving such benefits, including commitments that **allow the** developer to go tax-free for years to come.

YOHA members have hit upon a solution that upholds the Letters Patent and the spirit of the Public Trust Doctrine and still allows The Plant development to move forward. "The developer needs a road to its front door through the Marina," comments Wagner. "We get it—the Plant needs a road. So, okay, the city can and should authorize a simple restricted easement that lets the developer build a single narrow roadway. The city is muddying the waters with talk about ground leases and other instruments that convey the entire south lawn to the developer. They should not hand over a lease giving the Goren Group free reign over the entire south end of the park. Ownership and control of Parcel 1C should remain with the citizens of Yonkers for 'public recreation,' as mandated by the Letters Patent."

"The developer plans to redesign the entire south lawn, the heart of the park," says Surh. "Of course they say the public will be allowed to use it, but that will be difficult because the city handing them control. And they intend to use it for events, to make money. We're asking the city to seek a more equitable solution, to protect open public space, and to stand up for its people."

**Submitted by Yonkers on Hudson Alliance**

**Tax Protest, continued from pg. 1-**

"Black and brown students make up 75% of our Yonkers Public Schools. It's time to update the names of the schools to better reflect the accomplishments of the notable members in these communities. I am happy to announce that later this school year, the Yonkers Board of Ed officially will rename Palisades Prep to The Barack Obama School for Social Justice. And rename School 13 to The Mirabal Sisters Community School. These invincible, dedicated leaders who overcame great political and social strife and are symbols of what our students can become and aspire to be."

Spano pointed to factual data showing that crime is down in Yonkers. "Unlike the spike in crime seen across the nation, Yonkers is bucking the trend. Crime in Yonkers is down 10% since this time last year. And not only are we one of the top safest cities in America, but we are the safest Big City in all of New York State. But probably the most impressive stat to share with you is we are down a remarkable 44% in crime since we took office 10 years ago.

"Our police department is also diversifying its presence in our neighborhoods. Last year, I told you how we invested in our recruitment efforts to develop a more diverse pool of candidates for the next generation of Yonkers police officers. I am happy to report that 56% of those who qualify to be hired, self-identified as minority for the 2021 test. And of those who took our specialized test prep class, "Be the Change," 58% of them scored well enough to be hired in the coming years."

Other topics in the State of the City address:

**Energy Costs:** "I am proud to say that the City of Yonkers is here to help protect you from the brunt of these increases. The introduction of Westchester Power to our residents this month allows you to lock in a competitive fixed rate on clean energy, for the next 18 months, with options to join or leave the program at any time. We are eliminating the fear of awaiting your monthly Con Ed bill – with the added benefit of knowing you're helping green our electric grid."

"But maybe one of our greatest investments in protecting your wallet this year is acknowledging our evolving power sources. Since 2019, electric car sales have tripled and are expected to rise another 30% by 2025. To offset our reliance on natural gas and encourage the use of cleaner, greener energy, Yonkers is increasing the installation of electric charging stations across the city by another 100. That's real progress.

**Population increase: Hollywood on Hudson**

"As of the 2020 census, Yonkers beat out Rochester to become the Third Largest City in New York State. Please be sure to add that to your elevator pitch about how great Yonkers is! While I love to brag about our newest claim to fame, it's important to realize it's more than a witty slogan. With 211,000 residents strong, our rising population affords us opportunities to better fund our schools, infrastructure, healthcare and social programs.

"However, the 2020 Census didn't reveal anything we didn't already know – and that is Yonkers is undergoing an unprecedented economic revitalization with nearly \$5 billion in private investment in the last 10 years. And despite a global pandemic that paralyzed our nation, Yonkers emerged stronger, and at year's end, proudly boasted a 3.6% unemployment rate – the lowest in over 30 years and the lowest among the State's Big 5 Cities. Proving again, despite all odds, we are unstoppable!

"With the opening of Lionsgate last month and the completion of Phase 2 expected in 2023, Yonkers will be home to the largest modern production campus in the Northeast, with over one million square feet of production space and 12 giant stages.

"We want to make sure that when the tide goes up, the boats go up along with it – and that means jobs for our residents. Under the leadership of Great Point Studios CEO and President Robert Halmi, Lionsgate expects 75% of their new hires to be from Yonkers. And they are well on their way to hit that number. When all is complete, upwards of 2,000 jobs will be created.

**Affordable Housing:**

While the City Council and I are still working to improve upon the 10% existing Affordable Housing Ordinance, we promise you that Yonkers will maintain its status as state leader in affordable housing construction and adopt one of the most comprehensive ordinances in the nation. Nothing can stop us! You will see an additional 500 new affordable units for our working families. In addition to the 1,000 units that we've already built since 2013."

**Ukraine:**

"There are approximately 10,000 Ukrainian Americans in Westchester, with roughly 25% being immigrants – many of whom call Yonkers their home. The war in Ukraine is unimaginable, and the devastation is beyond comprehension. The images say it all. This is personal to us. Let there be no mistake: Yonkers Stands with Ukraine. Ukrainians, along with so many other ethnic groups, make up the true fabric of who we are in Yonkers."

**New Initiatives:**

\* A new school for 500 middle and high school students with a focus on film and media, to be built in conjunction with Great Point Studios in the Ludlow neighborhood.

\* 10 new police officers coming to the YPD

\* Another film announcement to Hollywood on the Hudson coming this year

"Ladies and Gentlemen, there is no stopping Yonkers in our quest for greatness. Our journey isn't over yet in Yonkers. We've already done so much together, but I know the full potential of our city is yet to be seen. We will continue to work together to make Yonkers' best days stand before us."

Some believed that this was Mayor Spano's best speech yet. It encompassed the past ten years in Yonkers under his watch, but also pointed to the future. One elected official in attendance said, "It was a clean, crisp delivery by the Mayor, who never went off script and seemed very comfortable in going over his achievements. This was a speech that said, we made it through COVID Yonkers. The last 10 years have been good but look out for our future."

Another Yonkers democrat said, "I think this speech also told us that he could have a fourth term if he wanted it. He's a member of the family for many in Yonkers. I know he doesn't want it, but I hope he reconsiders. He has done such a good job, we don't want him to leave."

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of formation of Will On Wheels Transport Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 02/18/2022 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Will on Wheels Transport Services LLC, 519 Locust Street 1B Mount Vernon, NY 10552 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Molcan Management LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/9/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 34 Wickes Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of RAINVILLE MCCABE, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on March 25, 2022. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on PLLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The PLLC, 69 Cowles Ave, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Legal Services.



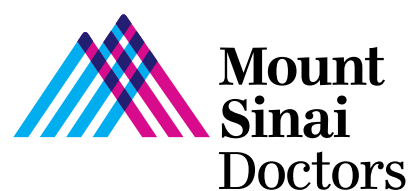
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